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A1 (54) Title: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT OF DEVICES HAVING SETTING ELEMENTS, AND A CORRESPONDING COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT AND A CORRESPONDING COMPUTER-READABLE STORAGE MEDIUM

WO 03/081349 A1 (57) Abstract: In a method and an arrangement for automatic adjustment of devices having setting elements, and a corresponding computer program product and computer-readable storage medium, the adjustment comprises the following steps: (a) Carrying out a first measurement of a characteristic curve to be controlled by the adjustment at predefined measurement points, each setting element assuming a reference setting, (b) testing a termination condition and terminating the method if this condition is satisfied, executing the following steps if the terminating condition is not satisfied, (c) modifying the reference setting of a setting element and measuring the characteristic curve again at predefined measurement points for this configuration of the setting elements (d) reproducing the initial reference setting of the setting element modified in step (c), (e) when there is more than one setting element, (f) calculating the gradient functions of the characteristic curve, (g) calculating new settings of the setting elements by minimizing an error function by using the measured values obtained in steps (a) and (c) and the gradient functions calculated in step (f), and (h) carrying out the method again, beginning with step (a), the settings calculated in step (g) serving as the new reference setting.

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Method and arrangement for automatic adjustment of devices having setting elements, and a corresponding computer program product and a corresponding computer-readable storage medium

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The invention relates to a method and an arrangement for automatic adjustment of devices having setting elements, and a corresponding computer program product and a corresponding computer-readable storage medium, which can be used in particular for computer-aided adjustment of microwave filters.

Microwave filters are still in many cases adjusted manually in a conventional way. The mutual influencing of the resonators and couplings makes both manual and automated computer-aided adjustment difficult. For the manual adjustment of these filters, experienced personnel are required and the adjustment time is therefore associated with high costs. Automated methods, which carry out this complex adjustment satisfactorily, have hitherto not been used.

The invention is therefore based on the object of developing a method and an arrangement, and a corresponding computer program result and a corresponding computer-readable storage medium which overcome the aforementioned disadvantages. In particular, a method is to be made available which can easily be adapted to various devices to be adjusted and permits effective and cost-effective adjustment.

According to the invention, this object is achieved by the features in the characterizing clause of Claims 1, 18, 19 and 20 in cooperation with the features in the

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precharacterizing clause. Expedient refinements of the invention are contained in the subclaims.

A particular advantage of the method for automatic
5 adjustment of devices having setting elements consists
in the fact that the adjustment comprises the following
steps:

- a) Carrying out a first measurement of a
10 characteristic curve to be controlled by the
adjustment at predefined measurement points, the
or each setting element assuming a first setting,
the "reference setting",
- 15 b) testing a termination condition and terminating
the method if this condition is satisfied,
executing the following steps if the termination
condition is not satisfied,
- 20 c) modifying the reference setting of a setting
element and measuring the characteristic curve
again at predefined measurement points for this
setting element configuration,
- 25 d) reproducing the initial reference setting of the
setting element modified in step c),
e) when there is more than one setting element,
repeating the steps c) and d) for each setting
30 element,
- f) calculating the gradient functions of the
characteristic curve,

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g) calculating new settings of the setting elements by minimizing an error function by using the measured values obtained in steps a) and c) and the gradient functions calculated in step f),
5 - setting the elements to the calculated values,

h) carrying out the method again, beginning with step a), the settings calculated in step g) serving as the new "reference setting".

10

An arrangement for automatic adjustment of devices having setting elements is distinguished by the fact that it has a processor which is set up in such a way that an adjustment method can be carried out, the
15 adjustment comprising the method steps according to Claim 1.

A computer program product for automatic adjustment of devices having setting elements is distinguished by the
20 fact that it comprises a computer-readable storage medium, on which a program is stored which, after it has been loaded into the memory of a computer, makes it possible for the computer to carry out a method for automatic adjustment of devices having setting
25 elements, the adjustment comprising the method steps according to Claim 1.

A computer-readable storage medium for automatic adjustment of devices having setting elements
30 advantageously has stored on it a program which, after it has been loaded into the memory of a computer, makes it possible for the computer to carry out a method for automatic adjustment of devices having adjusting

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elements, the adjustment comprising the method steps according to Claim 1.

A further advantage of the invention lies in the fact
5 that the starting reference setting of the setting elements at the beginning of the method is assumed in the middle of the respective setting range of a setting element or is predefined by means of values from experience or is determined by a preliminary adjustment
10 method.

It proves to be likewise advantageous if, after each measurement of the characteristic curve, a test of the termination condition is carried out and the method is
15 terminated if this condition is satisfied. A preferred embodiment of the inventive method consists in the test of the termination condition comprising an automatic comparison between the measured values of the characteristic curve and predefinable desired values or
20 desired ranges.

Furthermore, it proves to be advantageous for the measurement of the characteristic curve to be carried out as a scalar or vectorial measurement.

25 A further advantage of the method according to the invention is that, in order to minimize the error function in step g) of the method according to Claim 1, a gradient method and/or a random method is used.

30 In a preferred embodiment of the invention, provision is made for the minimization of the error function in step g) of the method according to Claim 1 to be terminated if, at one of the measurement points, the

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difference between the last determined theoretical value of the characteristic curve and the measured value of the characteristic curve assumes or exceeds a first predefinable magnitude (δ_{S11max}) for the
5 corresponding setting of the setting elements or if at one of the measurement points the difference between the last determined theoretical setting and the corresponding setting of the setting elements assumes or exceeds a second predefinable magnitude (δ_{EEmax})
10 or if in a set of predefinable measurement points the last determined theoretical values of the characteristic curve have reached a predefinable desired value or desired range or if in a set of predefinable measurement points the difference between
15 theoretical values, determined in successive steps of the minimization method, of the predefinable measurement points assumes or falls below a third predefinable magnitude. The last termination condition prevents the minimization of the error function
20 "dying", since, for example, it has migrated to an unexpected minimum and is still moving only in small steps in a limited range.

In this case, it proves to be advantageous for the
25 predefinable magnitudes and/or the predefinable measurement points for each device to be adjusted to be determined individually by means of test measurements.

Furthermore, it is advantageous for the theoretical
30 values of the characteristic curve to be determined by calculating a linear approximation function of the characteristic curve.

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Furthermore, it proves to be advantageous if the gradient of a characteristic curve f is determined in accordance with the following rule:

$$\begin{aligned} 5 \quad f_{\text{Gradient}}(a, i) &= df(a, i)/dEE(i) \\ &= (f(a,i,1)-f(a,i,0))/(EE(i,1)- \\ &\quad EE(i,0)), \end{aligned}$$

where: i = number of the setting element,
10 a = parameter,
 EE = setting element,
 $EE(i,0)$ = position of the setting
 element No. i before the
 modification of the reference
15 setting,
 $EE(i,1)$ = position of the setting
 element No. i after the
 modification of the reference
 setting,
20 $f(a,i,0)$ = f before the modification of
 the reference setting of the
 setting element No. i ,
 $f(a,i,1)$ = f after the modification of
 the reference setting of the
25 setting element No. i .

A preferred embodiment of the method according to the invention consists in that for a characteristic curve which, in addition to the setting of the setting
30 elements, depends on further variable parameters, for each configuration of the setting elements, a measurement of the characteristic curve for a plurality of measurement points is carried out, each parameter assuming a plurality of different values. It likewise

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proves to be advantageous for the number of measurement points to correspond to the number of setting elements.

A further advantage of the method according to the
5 invention consists in the device to be adjusted by adjustment being designed as a microwave filter.

A procedure is advantageous in which, for each configuration of the adjusting elements of a microwave
10 filter, a measurement of the characteristic curve is carried out for a plurality of measurement points, the frequency, as parameter, assuming a plurality of different values.

15 Furthermore, it constitutes an advantage that the measurement points are distributed uniformly only over the filter forward pass range.

In a preferred refinement of the method according to
20 the invention, provision is made for the characteristic curve to be controlled to describe the reflection factor S11 and/or the S12 parameter and/or the S21 parameter and/or the S22 parameter of a microwave filter.

25

In this case, it proves to be advantageous for the calculation of new settings of the setting elements in step g) of the method according to Claim 1 to be carried out by the theoretical behaviour of each
30 individual measurement point in the event of a simultaneous change in all the setting elements being simulated by means of linear superposition.

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- For devices which have a number of n setting elements, the method according to the invention permits the calculation of the characteristic curve to be optimized as early as after $n+1$ measurements - one reference measurement and n measurements with a modified setting of one setting element in each case - in a limited range without further measurements. The limited range is determined by the quality of the linear approximation to the (nonlinear) characteristic curve on which the method is based. This calculation can therefore be utilized (in this limited range) for the optimization of the settings of the setting elements (after these $(n+1)$ measurements).
- 15 The adjustment method can be used advantageously in all types of filter, including the filters with adjustable couplings.

In this case, this method is not restricted to filters, 20 but can be applied generally.

The exemplary embodiment of the invention is to be presented below using the adjustment of a microwave filter, the curve of the reflection factor on a filter port (S_{11}) being specifically optimized.

The adjustment method described in the following text makes it possible to adjust these filters automatically with relatively few iteration steps and, as a result, 30 in particular in a short time.

The method proceeds in the following steps:

1. Starting phase:

Depending on the filter type, either the middle of the respective setting range or else values from experience from filters of the same type that have already been
5 adjusted can be predefined as starting settings which, in the exemplary application of the method, represent a starting position at the beginning of the method for the setting elements, designated adjusting elements here. If such values are not available, first of all
10 one of the preliminary adjustment methods known per se must be carried out, in order to determine the starting positions.

2. Iteration - measurement of the reflection factor S11
15 for the reference position of the compensating elements:

After the compensating elements have assumed this starting position at the beginning of the adjustment
20 method, a first measurement is carried out.

For the iteration steps which may follow, the positions of the compensating elements calculated in the further course of the iteration step serve as a reference
25 position. For this purpose, the compensating elements are reset in each iteration step, an error function being minimized (see below).

The iteration steps are repeated until all the measured
30 values have reached a predefined desired range.

Since the reflection factor S11 depends not only on the position of the compensating elements but also on the frequency as well, it proves to be advantageous to

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measure the reflection factor S11 for a plurality of different frequency points.

3. Measuring the reflection factor S11 for individual
5 points:

At the start of each iteration step, as mentioned, the compensating elements are in the reference position, as it is known. In each iteration step, the reflection 10 factor S11 is subsequently measured for various combinations of the compensating elements. To be specific, the measurements are carried out in such a way that in each case a compensating element is moved out of its reference position, assumed at the beginning 15 of the respective iteration step, by means of a trial rotation, but the other compensating elements remain in the reference position. The reflection factor S11 is measured for this combination. (For each frequency point, the result is thus, in addition to the first 20 measurement of the reflection factor S11, n further measurements for the reference position of the compensating elements).

4. Calculating the gradient of S11:

25

From these points, obtained by means of the measurements, the vectorial gradients are then determined (at the various frequency points) in accordance with the following definition (already 30 generally formulated above):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{S11Gradient}(v, i) &= dS11(v,i)/dEE(i) \\ &= (S11(v,i,1)-S11(v,i,0))/(EE(i,1)- \\ &\quad EE(i,0)) \end{aligned}$$

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here specifically with

v = frequency,

5 S11(v,i,0) = S11 (complex) before the trial
rotation of the setting element
No. i,

10 S11 (v,i,1) = S11 (complex) after the trial
rotation of the setting element
No. i.

The remaining designations correspond to those explained above.

15 In order to keep the measurement time per iteration step small, here a low number of frequency points is expedient, for example in the range 1...2) x number of setting elements, and these points must be distributed uniformly only over the filter forward pass range.

20 5. Calculating the new positions of the adjusting elements by minimizing an error function:

25 Using the current S11 measured values and the S11 gradients obtained from the preceding measurements, the theoretical behaviour of each individual measurement point in the event of a simultaneous change in all the setting elements is then simulated by means of linear superposition. Therefore, the theoretical positions of
30 the compensating elements, at which a new calculation of the error function is to be carried out, (likewise step by step) is calculated in an approximation method. For this purpose, for example, a gradient method for

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minimizing the error function, a random method or a combination of the two can be applied. If the new error function value is smaller than the preceding one, the new positions of the compensating elements are used as
5 a basis for the next calculation of the error function. Each measurement point which still does not lie in the desired range makes a contribution to the error function. This contribution is greater the further removed a point is from the desired range.

10

The minimization of the error function is stopped if, at least one of the measurement points, the calculated S_{11} value has changed by more than a predefinable magnitude ($\Delta S_{11\max}$) with respect to
15 the reference value (that is the S_{11} value associated with the reference position), or when all the measurement points have "migrated into" the desired range. $\Delta S_{11\max}$ must not be chosen to be too large, in order that the linear approximation of the actual
20 nonlinear function of the reflection factor is still sufficiently accurate. If $\Delta S_{11\max}$ is chosen to be too small, many iterations are needed and the adjustment lasts too long. An excessively large $\Delta S_{11\max}$ value is best detected by the fact that the
25 S_{11} values predicted theoretically on the basis of the linear approximation and the S_{11} values measured by the new reference position of the adjusting elements after the iteration no longer agree. The optimum value for $\Delta S_{11\max}$ will have to be determined individually for
30 each filter type by means of test measurements.

When the minimization method for the error function has been terminated, the reference positions are available for the following iteration step.

Under certain circumstances, the calculation can supply a new position for individual setting elements which is very far removed from the preceding, corresponding
5 reference position and would probably make the adjustment worse. It is therefore expedient also to limit the difference between newly calculated position and reference position to a maximum value (ΔE_{max}) and likewise to terminate the minimization method when
10 this value is exceeded.

If, following the termination, there are still measured values which do not lie in the desired range, the adjustment method is continued with a further iteration
15 step. The setting elements are then set to the newly calculated positions, which then serve as reference positions for the following iteration step.

The sequence of an iteration step such as has been
20 implemented for example in the case of a 7-loop filter with fixed couplings at $v_0 = 26$ GHz, can be described in detail in the following way:

- (i) measuring the reflection factor S_{11} with all compensating elements in reference position;
- 25 (ii) testing a termination condition and terminating the method if this condition is satisfied, executing the following step if the termination condition is not satisfied;
- (iii) trial rotation of the first compensating element;
- 30 (iv) measuring $S_{11} (v_0, 1, 1)$;
- (v) reproducing the reference position for the first compensating element and trial rotation of the second compensating element;

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- (vi) measuring $S_{11} (v_0, 2, 1)$;
- (vii) repeating lines (v) and (vi) until a trial rotation with associated measurement has been carried out for all compensating elements;
- 5 (viii) calculating the S_{11} gradients from the points obtained by means of the measurements;
- (ix) calculating new positions for all the compensating elements by minimizing an error function;
- 10 (x) terminating the position calculation if $\Delta S_{11\max}$ is exceeded at at least one frequency point;
- (xi) limiting the difference between newly calculated position and reference position for each compensating element by terminating the position calculation if $\Delta E_{E\max}$ is exceeded in the case of at least one compensating element;
- 15 (xii) terminating the position calculation as soon as all the measured points are in the desired range;
- (xiii) setting the compensating elements to the newly calculated positions;
- (xiv) next iteration step: begin with (i): reference positions are then the positions newly set in 20 step (xiii).

Point (i) and (ii) of the description above of the sequence of the iteration step correspond to steps a) and b), respectively, of the inventive method according 30 to Claim 1.

Points (iii) to (vi) correspond to steps c) and d); point (vii) corresponds to step e); point (viii)

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corresponds to step f); points (ix) to (xii) give a specific exemplary embodiment of step g) of the inventive method according to Claim 1.

5 Apart from the "reflection factor" parameter (S11) treated in the above exemplary embodiment, additionally or alternatively the further S parameters (S21 = transfer curve, S12, S22) or other variables to be optimized can also be taken into account in the error
10 function.

In the case of vectorial variables, which are composed of magnitude and phase, such as the reflection coefficient, it is advantageous to measure these
15 components separately and to use them when determining the gradient. In the case of a scalar measurement, in which the individual components are combined into one value, information is lost, since it is no longer possible to detect which component has contributed
20 which magnitude to the measured value. Nevertheless, the gradient of the error function can alternatively also be used for the adjustment in the case of scalar measurement. Then, however, more iterations are required as compared with the vectorial method, for the
25 reasons mentioned, and the probability that a solution will be found is lower.

Alternatively, the gradients determined during an iteration step can furthermore be used for a plurality of following iteration steps, provided the error function becomes smaller. As a result, the adjustment can be made still faster by reducing the number of settings and measurements.

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The invention is not restricted to the exemplary embodiments presented here. Instead, by means of combination and modification of the aforementioned means and features, it is possible to implement further
5 design variants without departing from the scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A method for automatic adjustment of devices having
5 setting elements, characterized in that the adjustment
comprises the following steps:
 - a) Carrying out a first measurement of a
characteristic curve to be controlled by the
10 adjustment at predefined measurement points, the
or each setting element assuming a first setting,
the "reference setting",
 - b) testing a termination condition and terminating
15 the method if this condition is satisfied,
executing the following steps if the termination
condition is not satisfied,
 - c) modifying the reference setting of a setting
20 element and measuring the characteristic curve
again at predefined measurement points for this
configuration setting element configuration,
 - d) reproducing the initial reference setting of the
25 setting element modified in step c),

e) when there is more than one setting element,
repeating the steps c) and d) for each setting
element,
30
 - f) calculating the gradient functions of the
characteristic curve,

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g) calculating new settings of the setting elements by minimizing an error function by using the measured values obtained in steps a) and c) and the gradient functions calculated in step f),

5 - setting the elements to the calculated values,

h) carrying out the method again, beginning with step a), the settings calculated in step g) serving as the new "reference setting".

10

2. A method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the starting reference setting of the setting elements at the beginning of the method

15 - is assumed in the middle of the respective setting range of a setting element or
- is predefined by means of values from experience or
- is determined by a preliminary adjustment method.

20

3. A method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that after each measurement of the characteristic curve, a test of the termination condition is carried out and the method is terminated
25 if this condition is satisfied.

4. A method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the test of the termination condition comprises an automatic comparison between the measured values of the characteristic curve and predefinable desired values or desired ranges.
30

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5. A method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the measurement of the characteristic curve is carried out as a

- 5 - scalar or
- vectorial

measurement.

10 6. A method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that, in order to minimize the error function in step g) of the method according to Claim 1,

- a gradient method and/or
15 - a random method

is used.

20 7. A method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the minimization of the error function in step g) of the method according to Claim 1 is terminated

25 - if, at one of the measurement points, the difference between the last determined theoretical value of the characteristic curve and the measured value of the characteristic curve assumes or exceeds a first predefinable magnitude (δ_{S11max}) for the corresponding setting of the setting elements or

- 30 - if at one of the measurement points the difference between the last determined theoretical setting and the corresponding setting of the setting

- 20 -

elements assumes or exceeds a second predefinable magnitude (δE_{max}) or

- 5 - if in a set of predefinable measurement points the last determined theoretical values of the characteristic curve have reached a predefinable desired value or desired range or
- 10 - if in a set of predefinable measurement points the difference between theoretical values, determined in successive steps of the minimization method, of the predefinable measurement points assumes or falls below a third predefinable magnitude.

15 8. A method according to Claim 7, characterized in that

- the predefinable magnitudes and/or
- the predefinable measurement points

20 for each device to be adjusted are determined individually by means of test measurements.

25 9. A method according to Claim 7 or 8, characterized in that the theoretical values of the characteristic curve are determined by calculating a linear approximation function of the characteristic curve.

30 10. A method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the gradient of a characteristic curve (f) is determined in accordance with the following rule:

$$f_{Gradient}(a, i) = df(a, i)/dE(i)$$

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$$= (f(a,i,1) - f(a,i,0)) / (EE(i,1) - EE(i,0)),$$

where: i = number of the setting element,
5 a = parameter,
EE = setting element,
EE(i,0) = position of the setting
element No. i before the
modification of the reference
10 setting,
EE(i,1) = position of the setting
element No. i after the
modification of the reference
setting,
15 f(a,i,0) = f before the modification of
the reference setting of the
setting element No. i,
f(a,i,1) = f after the modification of
the reference setting of the
20 setting element No. i.

11. A method according to any preceding claim,
characterized in that for a characteristic curve which,
in addition to the setting of the setting elements,
25 depends on further variable parameters, for each
configuration of the setting elements, a measurement of
the characteristic curve for a plurality of measurement
points is carried out, each parameter assuming a
plurality of different values.

30

12. A method according to any preceding claim,
characterized in that the number of measurement points
corresponds to the number of setting elements.

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13. A method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the device to be adjusted by means of adjustment is designed as a microwave filter.

5 14. A method according to Claim 13, characterized in that for each configuration of the adjusting elements of a microwave filter, a measurement of the characteristic curve is carried out for a plurality of measurement points, the frequency, as parameter,
10 assuming a plurality of different values.

15. A method according to Claim 13 or 14, characterized in that the measurement points are distributed uniformly only over the filter forward pass range.

15
16. A method according to any of Claims 13 to 15, characterized in that the characteristic curve to be controlled describes

20 - the reflection factor (S_{11}) and/or
- the S_{12} parameter and/or
- the S_{21} parameter and/or
- the S_{22} parameter

25 of a microwave filter.

17. A method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the calculation of new settings of the setting elements in step g) of the method
30 according to Claim 1 is carried out by the theoretical behaviour of each individual measurement point in the event of a simultaneous change in all the setting elements being simulated by means of linear superposition.

18. An arrangement having a processor which is set up in such a way that a method for automatic adjustment of devices having setting elements can be carried out, the
5 adjustment comprising the following steps:

- a) Carrying out a first measurement of a characteristic curve to be controlled by the adjustment at predefined measurement points, the setting elements assuming a first setting, the "reference setting",
10
- b) testing a termination condition and terminating the method if this condition is satisfied,
15 executing the following steps if the termination condition is not satisfied,
- c) modifying the reference setting of a setting element and measuring the characteristic curve again at predefined measurement points for this configuration of the setting elements,
20
- d) reproducing the initial reference setting of the setting element modified in step c),
25
- e) in the presence of a plurality of setting elements, repeating the steps c) and d) for each setting element,
- f) calculating the gradient functions of the characteristic curve,
30
- g) calculating new settings of the setting elements by minimizing an error function by using the

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measured values obtained in steps a) and c) and
the gradient functions calculated in step f),
- setting the elements to the calculated values,

5 h) carrying out the method again, beginning with step
a), the settings calculated in step g) serving as
the new "reference setting".

10 19. A computer program product, which comprises a
computer-readable storage medium on which a program is
stored which, after it has been loaded into the memory
of a computer, makes it possible for the computer to
carry out a method for automatic adjustment of devices
having setting elements, the adjustment comprising the
15 following steps:

- a) Carrying out a first measurement of a
characteristic curve to be controlled by the
adjustment at predefined measurement points, the
20 setting elements assuming a first setting, the
"reference setting",
- b) testing a termination condition and terminating
the method if this condition is satisfied,
25 executing the following steps if the termination
condition is not satisfied,
- c) modifying the reference setting of a setting
element and measuring the characteristic curve
30 again at predefined measurement points for this
configuration of the setting elements,
- d) reproducing the initial reference setting of the
setting element modified in step c),

e) in the presence of a plurality of setting elements, repeating the steps c) and d) for each setting element,

5

f) calculating the gradient functions of the characteristic curve,

g) calculating new settings of the setting elements
10 by minimizing an error function by using the measured values obtained in steps a) and c) and the gradient functions calculated in step f),
- setting elements to the calculated values,

15 h) carrying out the method again, beginning with step a), the settings calculated in step g) serving as the new "reference setting".

20. A computer-readable storage medium, on which a program is stored which, after it has been loaded into the memory of a computer, makes it possible for the computer to carry out a method for automatic adjustment of devices having setting elements, the adjustment comprising the following steps:

25

a) Carrying out a first measurement of a characteristic curve to be controlled by the adjustment at predefined measurement points, the setting elements assuming a first setting, the
30 "reference setting",

b) testing a termination condition and terminating the method if this condition is satisfied,

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executing the following steps if the termination condition is not satisfied,

- c) modifying the reference setting of a setting element and measuring the characteristic curve again at predefined measurement points for this configuration of the setting elements,
- d) reproducing the initial reference setting of the setting element modified in step c),
- e) in the presence of a plurality of setting elements, repeating the steps c) and d) for each setting element,
- f) calculating the gradient functions of the characteristic curve,
- g) calculating new settings of the setting elements by minimizing an error function by using the measured values obtained in steps a) and c) and the gradient functions calculated in step f),
 - setting the elements to the calculated values,
- h) carrying out the method again, beginning with step a), the settings calculated in step g) serving as the new "reference setting".

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB 03/01604

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G05B15/00 H01P1/205 H03J1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H01P H03J G05B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

INSPEC, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	HARSCHER P ET AL: "Automated computer-controlled tuning of waveguide filters using adaptive network models" PROCEEDINGS OF 2000 ASIA-PACIFIC MICROWAVE CONFERENCE, SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA, 3-6 DEC. 2000, vol. 49, no. 11, pages 2125-2130, XP002248578 IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, Nov. 2001, IEEE, USA ISSN: 0018-9480 the whole document ---	1-20
A	US 5 081 590 A (GOMINHO EMANUEL C ET AL) 14 January 1992 (1992-01-14) column 1, line 19 -column 3, line 29 --- -/-	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 July 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

04.09.2003
16.09.2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB 03/01604

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 151 652 A (MOSCHUERING HUGO) 29 September 1992 (1992-09-29) column 1, line 6 -column 2, line 35 ---	1-20
A	DE 26 39 973 A (LICENTIA GMBH) 9 March 1978 (1978-03-09) page 3 -page 7 ---	1-20
A	FR 2 625 835 A (ALCATEL THOMSON FAISCEAUX) 13 July 1989 (1989-07-13) page 1, line 3 -page 3, line 10 -----	1-20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB 03/01604

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US 5081590	A	14-01-1992	NONE			
US 5151652	A	29-09-1992	EP CA	0419725 A1 2026369 A1		03-04-1991 30-03-1991
DE 2639973	A	09-03-1978	DE	2639973 A1		09-03-1978
FR 2625835	A	13-07-1989	FR	2625835 A1		13-07-1989